

- I. Displays the establishment's table number for food to table reference and status checks.
- II. Indicates the food order status.
- III. Click next will navigate the user to the next screen. The next screen allows the user (Wait staff) to enter the customer's food/drink orders.
- IV. Displays the wait staff's name.
- V. The wait staff can view, edit and delete food order in this screen.
- VI. The customer's food order can contain special requests such as "Add Salt" and "Onions". The kitchen staff will see the special request in a text box format at the kitchen's workstation.
- VII. The wait staff can maintain the food/bar order using the command buttons. However once the food is in work-in-process, the wait staff will be notified for further action.

Detailed Description of the invention:

Assuming all necessary hardware existed in the market today, the invention is the tying of these units together thereby resulting in a state of the art Food Order taking /placing system. The codes developed for the existing hardware (PDA/Handheld, Desktop, wireless network) are within this patent.

Scope

All programming codes used for transmission and retrieval of food and drink orders.

The application codes reside in the handheld device and network server. The codes (routines, lookups, event procedures, etc) are methods that contain food order entries, program maintenance capabilities, all GUI, interfaces to the existing system and the relating tables/database stored in the server. This includes the interfaces tied to the existing system and restaurant's general accounting system.

Hardware Requirement

- Hand-held scanner/PDA (Palm Pilot type transmitter), undetermined brand/model.
- Desktop PC -700Mhz, 128MB Ram, 20 Gig disk space
- Wireless Network using TCP/IP for protocols-Not within this US patent scope.

Software (OS) Requirements

Windows NT, 2000, 98 or 95

Interfaces

- The programmed PDA can be interfaced with current system (existing software packages). Using existing scanner/remote handheld device in the market. The scope covers all hardware/software enhancements, changes and/or modifications whether tangible and/or intangible in nature.
- The PDA can be part of a whole system, which is part of the scope of this patent declaration. In this case the scope of this patent covers all of the enhancements, changes and/or modifications whether tangible and/or intangible in nature to the existing system.

Note: Please see previous sections for further process definition and scope identification.

Claims:

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A food order automation system used by the restaurant wait, kitchen and bar staff, said food order automation system comprising:
 - a. One or more PDA handheld units: The wireless units are used by the wait staff. As prescribed in Claim 1:
 - b. A wireless network switch/hub linked to the existing network server. The wireless network is the gateway for incoming orders and the transmission notifications to the

remote PDA handheld devices from the existing network server. As prescribed in Claim 1.

- c. All programming codes used for interfaces between units prescribed in item 1a and 1b above. As prescribed in Claim 1.
- d. All programming codes supporting the communication backbone used in the Food and Drink Order Automation system. As prescribed in Claim 1.
- e. All programming codes used for reporting and storing food/drink order entries, database tables, queries, methods and database updates. As prescribed in Claim 1.
- f. Graphical user interfaces (GUI) displayed on the PDA handheld device so wait staff can select and place food items. As prescribed in Claim 1.
- g. Graphical user interfaces displayed on the kitchen, bar and central station screen. If one existed already, the orders submitted by the wait staff will displayed on the existing GUI. Otherwise the said system is to provide a GUI screen. As prescribed in Claim 1.
- h. All hardware enhancements and/or modifications made to the existing system so integrate with the Food and Drink Order Automation system as prescribe in Claim 1.